

Application No. 10/617,161

REMARKS

The Applicant and the undersigned thank Examiner Douglas for his careful review of this application. The Applicant wishes to thank Examiner Douglas for his indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 1-16, 44-54, 101-108 and in dependent Claims 40 and 109.

Applicant has amended Claims 17 and 72. Applicant has canceled Claims 30-33, 40, 55-71, 75, 81, 87-100, and 109. Upon entry of the amendments, Claims 1-29, 34-39, 41-54, 72-74, 76-80, 82-86, and 101-108 are pending in the subject application with Claims 1-16, 44-54, and 101-108 having been allowed. The independent claims for this application are Claims 1, 17, 44, and 72.

I. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Examiner rejected Claims 17-24, 27, 28, 36-39, 41-43, 55, 58-61, 63-66, 72-75, 78, 79, and 84-86 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,079,461 to Fisher, et al. ("*Fisher*"). The Applicant respectfully offers the following remarks to traverse these pending rejections.

A. *Independent Claims 17 and 72*

The rejections of independent Claims 17 and 72 are respectfully traversed in view of the amendments submitted for these claims. While the Applicant disagrees with the Examiner's assertion that Fisher anticipates the above-referenced claims of the present invention, the Applicant amended independent Claim 17 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of dependent Claim 40, and amended independent Claim 72 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of dependent Claim 109 and its intervening Claim 75. Furthermore, Applicant has canceled Claims 55-71 in an effort to expedite prosecution of the present application. Applicant reserves the right to submit claims defining the original subject matter of Claims 1-109 in a continuation application. The Examiner's rejections of these claims have been rendered moot by these claim amendments. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

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B. Dependent Claims 18-29, 34-39, 41-43, 73, 74 76-80, and 82-86

Applicant respectfully submits that dependent Claims 18-29, 34-39, 41-43, 73, 74 76-80, and 82-86 are allowable because the independent claims from which they depend, amended Claims 17 and 72, are patentable over the cited reference. The Applicant also respectfully submits that the recitations of these dependent claims are of patentable significance. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the pending rejections of Claims 18-29, 34-39, 41-43, 73, 74 76-80, and 82-86.

II. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected Claims 25, 26, 56, 57, 76, 77, 87, and 89-100 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being made obvious by *Fisher* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,014,995 to Agnew. ("Agnew"). The Applicant trusts that its amendments of independent Claims 17 and 72 to overcome *Fisher* also overcome these rejections for dependent Claims 25, 26, 76, and 77. Furthermore, Applicant has canceled Claims 56, 87 and 89-100. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

III. Objections for Claims Depending From a Rejected Base Claim

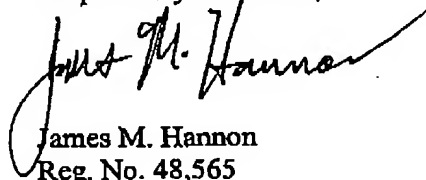
The Examiner has objected to Claims 40 and 109 as being dependent upon rejected base claims. As stated above, Applicant amended independent Claim 17 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of dependent Claim 40, and amended independent Claim 72 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of dependent Claim 109 and its intervening Claim 75..

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CONCLUSION

The foregoing is submitted as a full and complete response to the Official Action mailed on April 11, 2005. If the Examiner believes that there are any issues that can be resolved by a telephone conference, or that there are any informalities that can be corrected by an Examiner's amendment, a telephone call to the undersigned at (404) 572-4691 to discuss same is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



James M. Hannon
Reg. No. 48,565

KING & SPALDING LLP
45th Floor
191 Peachtree Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
KS# 08186.105003